

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 18 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 8 and 12. Accordingly, claims 8 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 13 have been amended to achieve proper dependency in view of the cancellation of claims 8 and 12. Independent method claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 has been canceled and claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 14.

Claims 12, 13, 17 and 18 were identified as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if amended or rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

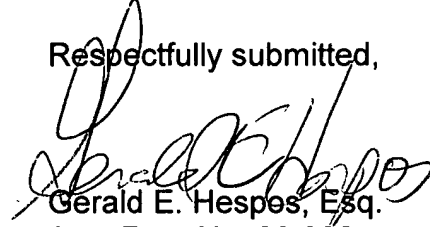
Patentable claim 12 had depended from claim 8 which in turn depended from independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 8 and 12. As a result, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7, 9-11 and 13 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed as well.

Patentable claim 17 had depended directly from independent claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17. As a result, amended claim 14 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 15, 16 and 18 depend from claim 14 and should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and

allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

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